

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST  
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
Grant, Harney, Baker, and Malheur Counties, Oregon**

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**RESPONSIBLE AGENCY**    USDA Forest Service

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**ABSTRACT**

This Final Environmental Impact Statement describes six alternative ways of managing the land and resources of the Malheur National Forest. Alternative NC (No Change) represents continuing the management direction of the existing timber management plans. Alternative A (No Action) continues the management direction of existing plans, in compliance with standards for all viable alternatives. Alternative B-Modified emphasizes intensive timber management in an attempt to meet levels assigned in the Regional Guide. Alternative C-Modified emphasizes semiprimitive recreation and nongame fish and wildlife. Alternative F emphasizes intensive timber production, with a combination of fish and wildlife values, dispersed recreation, and forage production. Alternative I reduces harvest intensity in riparian zones, features uneven-aged management on up to 30 percent of the suitable timber lands, and adds more regeneration harvests on mixed conifer acres where severe defoliation due to spruce budworm infestations and other damaging agents has recently taken place.

In reviewing the public comments to the Proposed Plan and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, additional key issues were identified as having significant importance to the Forest planning process. These additional issues, as well as other public concerns, were addressed between the issuance of the Draft Environmental Impact and this Final Environmental Impact Statement through analysis and alternative development. These issues played a valuable role in the development and identification of Alternative I as the preferred alternative.

Alternative I is the Forest Service's preferred alternative, which is the basis for the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) which accompanies this document. Upon approval, the Forest Plan will guide management of the Forest's 1,459,422 acres for the next 10-15 years.